

## WASHINGTON CRITIC



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THE CRITIC,  
133 D Street,  
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WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 27, 1890.

THIS PAPER.

Owing to the inability of the gentlemen

to make good their engagements, who

on the 26th of January last leased THE

DAILY CRITIC and SUNDAY CAPITAL

newspapers, with an option (and let it

be hoped an expectation) of purchase,

both of these newspapers pass with this

issue under the control of their respec-

tive owners.

A great many things have appeared

in the columns of THE CRITIC during

the last thirty days for which the gen-

tleman then in control must both be

given credit and held to responsibility.

As for the writer he agrees

with very little of it. He is of

the opinion that the good citizens of

the District of Columbia pay too much

instead of too little in the way of taxes,

and that quite a large majority of them

are of estimable intentions and fairly

decent instincts.

THE EVENING CRITIC will appear

regularly, and what it does or proposes

to do will be known from day to day.

THE NATION TO CELEBRATE.

The excellent plan for a national

celebration in 1892 at the National

Capital, which has been proposed by

the executive committee of the Wash-

ington Board of Promotion and to which

reference was made in yesterday's

CRITIC, will, beyond doubt, be univer-

sally approved.

It does not in any way antagonize or

even rival the Exposition scheme which

has been virtually relegated to Chi-

cago not only as to its site,

but as to its general manage-

ment. The probability is that when

the matter comes to be closely con-

sidered it will be found that the in-

terval between now and 1892 is too

brief a space of time to allow even the

"hustlers" of Chicago to make the

preparations and arrangements necessary

for a creditable World's Fair. In that

case a postponement may be inevitable,

and the Chicago Exposition may not

open until 1893, or perhaps 1895. No

pains should be spared, and all the time

needed should be taken, to make the

fair creditable to the nation and worthy

of the occasion.

Because of the probability of this

postponement, among other reasons, a

national celebration by the National

Government at the National Capital

becomes a necessity. On account

of this possible postponement likewise,

the desirableness of such a celebration

as the executive committee has planned

will receive unanimous concurrence.

The plan itself should be carried out

to its last detail.

CANNOT BE FINISHED.

The triumphs of engineering skill,

which have marked this nineteenth

century and made it marvelous, almost

forbid asserting what, in that line, can

or cannot be done. But it is almost

safe to say that this generation, at

least, will not see the Panama Canal

completed.

In Paris, within the last two weeks,

shares in that enterprise of the par-

value of \$100 each have fallen to less

than \$12. This fall has been coinci-

dent with the completion of the exami-

case comes within the prohibitions

of the law.

A similar case which occurred some

time ago in New York City was decided

adversely, and it is surmised that that

precedent will be followed in the pres-

ent instance.

Yet no one who understands the pur-

pose for which the Allen Contract law

was passed imagines for a moment that

it was intended to apply to the

case of a foreign clergyman involved

in a charge in this country. The act

especially excepts "actors, artists and

lecturers," and it is to be presumed

that its failure to include in the excep-

tioned professions was entirely due to

inadvertence.

Still, the questions that arise from

time to time in consequence of this in-

advertence are embarrassing both to the

Treasury officials and the parties inter-

ested. There should be no difficulty in

getting Congress to amend the law as

that, under it, hereafter, all such em-

barrassments shall be avoided. No

good intention is served by the exclusion

of clergymen.

LABOR CONFERENCE.

The International Conference, called

by the Emperor of Germany to consider

the European labor problem and the

general condition of the working

classes, bids fair to be successful, so

far, at least, as attendance is concerned.

Almost all the nations invited have ac-

cepted, and their representatives will

be expected to assemble in force at Ber-

lin on the 15th of next month.

Just what the programme of the con-

ference will be or what beneficial re-

sult is anticipated has not yet been de-

termined. But something will doubtless

be gained through an interchange of

opinions between the representatives of

these great countries and through a

comparison of the labor systems of their

various countries.

Although the United States is not

formally represented, it is known that a

full description of the condition of labor

in this country will be laid before the

convention. It is understood that the

German Legation here has for some

time been collecting statistics and docu-

ments bearing on the question, and that

these will be duly forwarded to the Im-

perial Government.

A suggestion will be made from Bel-

gium to the effect that the conference

shall take into consideration the im-

mense armaments of European nations;

that it shall declare that the exhaustive

military and naval expenditures are a

crushing burden upon an and unexpec-

ted detriment to the working classes,

and that it shall further make such

representations as may lead to the re-

duction of these war establishments to a

peace footing.

If, in accordance with this sugges-

tion, the conference should succeed in

exercising any influence that might aid

in strengthening the guarantees of peace

in Europe its convening will not have

been in vain.

THE MOST JUST CLAIM.

The statement that the French

spoliation appropriation clause was not

reported unanimously by the House

Claims Committee is not correct. Nine

members of the committee voted for it,

four were absent, and one declined to

commit himself. It is incredible that,

with the money in the Treasury await-

ing these long-suffering creditors of the

Government, and with a concurrent ap-

proval of their claims by a half score of

Congresses, the Court of Claims and the

Supreme Court, there should be any

hesitation on the part of the House to

pass a formal appropriation.

No single claim against the Govern-

ment, or upon its gratitude, not ex-

THE RESIGNATION OF THE Spanish Sec-

retary of the Pan-American Congress

has been accepted. Mr. Pierra thought

\$300 a month an insufficient in-

demnification for his services and re-

signed on that account. Urged

to withdraw his resignation he

offered to serve without pay. The

executive committee, however, chose to

accept his resignation. That body

seems to be of the opinion that a paid

secretary is needed, and that \$300 a

month is sufficient pay.

Now that Le Blanc has refused

positively to meet Dempsey again, the

sporting public will be convinced that

the former won by a fluke, and knows it.

THE PLAYERS' LEAGUE has eight

clubs, with 130 men. There hasn't been

much play about the Players' League,

after all.

PATTI has a cold in the chest, and

every night it stays there it excludes

four thousand dollars.

PURELY PERSONAL.

Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton will

probably go to Italy next month.

The death has been announced at

Sykesville, Md., of Miss Susanah Har-

field, who composed the "Grand Inau-

gural March" which was played at the

installation of William Henry Harrison

as President. She was seventy years

old. John C. Fane (brother-in-law) is the

social leader of Quebec. He owns a

fashionable residence and gives superb

entertainments, which are attended by

the most aristocratic people of the city.

During the summer residence on the

St. Lawrence.

Having retired from the Louisville,

Ky., pension office, Gen. Don Carlos

Bull has gone with his step-daughter—

who constitutes all of his family—to his

farm in Mohlen County, where he will

perhaps endeavor to open up his

coal mines again.

The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres

has closed and dismantled his famous

observatory at Dun Echt, which has

been well known to all astronomers

for many years past, and has presented

all the instruments and the astronomical

library to the Royal Observatory at

Edinburgh.

James Russell Lowell, in an in-

formal talk delivered before the mem-

bers of the Harvard Art Club, was

once asked by an inquiring student

what was the mission of a great uni-

versity. Without a moment's hesita-

tion the veteran diplomat answered re-

plied: "To teach nothing that is useful."

Senator Vance says a constituent of

his in the pine woods district of North

Carolina to whom he sent a copy of one

of the Patent Office annual reports

said to him of the occurrence in this

way: "General, I got them speeches of

yourn, but I couldn't read 'em through.

They was a little too much whig doc-

trine."

Buffalo Bill had an interesting ex-

perience at Barcelona. As he was about

to leave that city he was accosted by an

envoy of the Spanish government, who

asked if he would accept a certain de-

coration. "No, my friend," said

Colonel Cody. "I am already Duke of

Colorado." The envoy bowed respect-

fully and disappeared.

The quarrel between Prince Napoleon

and his son, Victor, has become so bit-

ter that the most painful scene took

place when they recently met at Turin

for the purpose of attending the obse-

quies of the Duke of Aosta. Indeed

their conduct was such that King Hum-

phrey was forced to insist upon their

withdrawal from the funeral procession

so as to avoid a public scandal.

AMUSEMENTS.

Bohemian Girl.

Balf's romantic opera was sung by

TRAVELER AS FREIGHT.

A Clever Austrian Tailor's Scheme to